

crowd of Americans to burn a man at the stake,
but there have
been many cases of it.¹

236. Solidarity of group *in.* penalty incurred
by one. In
primitive society any one who departed from the
ways of ancestors
was supposed to offend their ghosts; furthermore,
he was sup-
posed to bring down their avenging wrath on the
whole group of
which he was a member. This idea has prevailed
until modern
times. It aroused the sentiment of vengeance
against the dis-
senter, and united all the rest in a common interest
against him.
Especially, if any misfortune befell the group, they
turned against
any one who had broken the taboos. Thus
goblinism was united
to the other reasons for disliking dissenters and
gave it definite
direction and motive. At Rome, "in the days of the
republic,
every famine, pestilence, or drought was followed by
a searching
investigation of the sacred rites, to ascertain
what irregularity
or neglect had caused the divine anger, and two
instances are
recorded in which vestal virgins were put to death
because their
unchastity was believed to have provoked a
national calamity."²
In the Roman law is found a proposition which was
often quoted
hf the Middle Ages : " That which is done against
divine religion
is done to the harm of all." ³ Hale ⁴ explains the
tortures inflicted
by the Iroquois, by their desire to mark some kinds
of Indian
warfare as very abominable, and so to drive them
out of use.
Torture always flatters vanity. He who inflicts it
has power.
To reduce, plunder, and torment an enemy is a
great luxury.
The lust of blood is a frightful demon when once it
is aroused.
A Hungarian woman of noble birth, at the
beginning of the
seventeenth century, tortured to death thirty or
forty of her

maidservants. She began by inflicting severe punishments and developed a fiendish passion for the sight of suffering and blood.⁵ It is the combinations of the other elements, religion, ambition, sex, vanity, and the lust of blood, with the dislike of dissenters,

^aIn 1899 a German officer was condemned to death by a court martial for killing a half-breed subordinate with great torture. The emperor reduced the punishment to fifteen years' imprisonment, and in May, 1902, granted the prisoner a full pardon. — *Assoc. Press*, December 24, 1899; *JV. K Times*, May 24, 1903,

... ² Lecky, *Morals*, I, 407.

⁸ *Cod. Justin.*, I, 5, sec. 4.

* *Iroquois Book of Rites*, 97.

⁶ Elsberg, *Elizabeth. Bathory*.